

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the subject application as amended herein. This Amendment is submitted in response to an Office Action mailed on August 13, 2004. Claims 16-20, 22-34, 36, 37, 43, 54-61, 63-66, 72 and 73 are rejected. Claims 21, 35, 38-42, 44, 62 and 67-70 are objected to. In this amendment, claims 16, 35, 36, 39-41, 43, 54, 63, 68-70, 72 and 73 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 21, 37, 38, 55, 62 and 67 have been canceled without prejudice.

The Examiner rejected claims 16, 22-25, 27-29, 32-34, 36, 54, 58-61, 63, 65, 72 and 73 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Chatani, et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0076344 hereinafter “Chatani”). Claims 18-20, 43, 56, 57 and 66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chatani, in view of Graham, (U.S. Patent No. 6,542,164, hereinafter “Graham”). Claims 17, 26, 30, 31, 37, 55 and 64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chatani, in view of Gorbet, et al., (U.S. Patent No. 6,542,163, hereinafter “Gorbet”).

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-15, 45-53 and 71 are allowed.

Claims 21, 31, 38-42, 44, 62 and 67-70 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. The claims have been so amended. In particular, claim 16 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 21. Claim 35 has been rewritten to include all the limitations of the base claim 16. Claim 36 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 38 and intervening claim 37. Claim 43 has been rewritten to include the limitations of the base claim 36. Claim 54 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 62. Claim 63 has been amended

to include the limitations of allowable claim 67. Claims 72 and 73 are article of manufacture claims corresponding to method claims 16 and 36 respectively. Claims 72 and 73 have been amended to include the same limitations as corresponding method claims 16 and 36. In view of these amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 16-20, 22-36, 39-44, 54, 56-61, 63-66, 68-70 and 72-73 are now in condition for allowance, and request allowance of said claims.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Marina Portnova at (408) 720-8300.

Deposit Account Authorization

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Marina Portnova at (408) 720-8300.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR
& ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: October 19, 2004

M. Portnova
Marina Portnova
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 45,750

Customer No. 008791
12400 Wilshire Blvd.
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300